

**We Claim**

1. A package assembly for food products, comprising:  
a tray defining a product-receiving cavity for receiving a plurality of food items; and  
a cover slidably mounted to said tray so as to be movable between a fully closed position enclosing said cavity, and a partially open position for dispensing said food items;

said tray having a pair of opposed ends and defining a shelf adjacent one end to receive a limited number of said food items so that, with limited opening of said cover away from the first end of said tray, said limited number of said food items is free for extraction from said package assembly.

2. The package assembly of claim 1 wherein said cover is movable to an open position exposing a substantial portion of said cavity.

3. The package assembly of claim 2 wherein said cover comprises at least one stop member engageable with said tray to allow limited travel of said cover to be moved to said open position and to prevent disengagement of said cover from said tray.

4. The package assembly of claim 1 wherein said tray defines an inclined ramp communicating with said shelf.

5. The package assembly of claim 1 wherein said tray includes a bottom wall and an intermediate wall spaced above said bottom wall and said shelf is recessed within said intermediate wall.

6. The package assembly of claim 1 wherein said cover further includes a depression extending into said cavity.
7. The package assembly of claim 1 wherein said cover further includes a depression extending into said cavity, and cooperating with said tray to control movement of food items.
8. The package assembly of claim 1 wherein said tray and said cover are made from metal sheet material.
9. The package assembly of claim 1 wherein said cover and said tray include cooperating slide rails.
10. The package assembly of claim 1 wherein said shelf has a generally rectangular shape.
11. The package assembly of claim 1 wherein said shelf has a generally rectangular shape with opposed rounded ends.
12. A food product package assembly comprising:  
a tray defining a product-receiving cavity and a plurality of food items therein, each of said food items having a horizontal dimension, a cover slidably mounted to said tray so as to be movable between a fully closed position enclosing said cavity, and a partially open position defining a slot for dispensing said food items so that, with limited opening of said cover away from the first end of said tray, a limited number of said food items may be dispensed in a controlled manner by gravity.
13. The package assembly of claim 12 wherein said tray includes an intermediate wall at an elevation above that of said bottom wall and a shelf recessed within said intermediate wall.
14. The package assembly of claim 13 wherein said tray defines an inclined

ramp communicating with said shelf.

15. The package assembly of claim 14 wherein said shelf has a generally rectangular shape.

16. The package assembly of claim 15 wherein travel of said cover is limited to define a dispensing slot having a width greater than a horizontal dimension of one of said food items.

17. The package assembly of claim 16 wherein said cover comprises at least one stop member engageable with said tray to allow said cover to be moved to said open position and to prevent disengagement of said cover from said tray, and wherein said dispensing slot is less than twice said horizontal dimension of one of said food items.

18. The package assembly of claim 17 wherein said dispensing slot is greater than said horizontal dimension and is less than 150% thereof.

19. The package assembly of claim 18 wherein said cover further includes a depression extending into said cavity, and cooperating with said tray to guide said food items onto said shelf.

20. The package assembly of claim 19 wherein said tray and said cover are made from metal sheet material.

21. The package assembly of claim 20 wherein said cover and said tray include cooperating slide rails.

22. The package assembly of claim 21 wherein said shelf has a generally rectangular shape with opposed rounded ends.